

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

***Gospel Celebration***

**Chorale, Men's Ensemble,  
Chamber Singers, and Gospel Choir**

Oral Moses, Conductor

Leslie J. Blackwell, Conductor



Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 8 pm

Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Morgan Hall

Eighty-eighth Concert of the 2016-17 Concert Season



## program

### **Gospel Choir**

Oral Moses, conductor

RICHARD SMALLWOOD

***Total Praise***

JOY CYMBALA

***Thou Oh Lord Carol***

### **Chamber Singers**

Leslie J. Blackwell, conductor

arr. Damon H. Dandridge

***I Know I've Been Changed***

Deondria West

Marcel Benoit, III

ROBERT RAY

***Gospel Mass***

## **Chorale, Men's Ensemble, Chamber Singers and Gospel Choir**

Sherri N. Barrett, piano

Drew Lloyd, electric bass

Andrew Creech, percussion

### **I. *Kyrie***

Lord Have Mercy

Jakari Rush

Phillip Staples

### **II. *Gloria***

Glory to God in the Highest

Matthew Welsh

Hallie Skelton

### **III. *Credo***

I Believe in God

Ziara Greene

Jennell Smith

### **IV. *Acclamation***

Hallelujah Praise the Lord

### **V. *Sanctus***

Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts

Ryan Cox

Michael Stewart

Cody O'Shea

### **VI. *Agnus Dei***

Lamb of God

Jeremiah Robinson

Chase Law

# program notes

**Gospel Mass** | Robert Ray (b. 1946)

Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass* was intended as an experimental work, for a one-time performance. *Gospel Mass* premiered in 1978 at the University of Illinois, performed by the University's Black Chorus. This work was written while Ray was a liturgy team leader for the National Office of Black Catholics. The *Gospel Mass* was created out of a need from these workshops. The Mass is Dr. Ray's interpretation of two thousand years of liturgical tradition with the more contemporary music of the African-American Church. For centuries, composers have taken the text of the Ordinary of the Mass and given them musical settings. Each setting creates within the listener a different feeling about the worship experience. "It is my desire to combine centuries of old traditions of Mass settings with sounds of the contemporary Black Church. The move from Latin to English created new opportunities for composers to express their feelings about the texts of the Ordinary of the Mass. I wanted everyone to experience the sense of joy and celebration that is generally felt in true African-American worship."

## text

### **I. Kyrie**

(Lord Have Mercy)

In the name of the Father,  
in the name of the Son,  
in the name of the Holy Spirit,  
the Blessed Three in One.

Oh Lord have mercy.

*Kyrie eleison.*

Oh Lord have mercy on me.

Send us a Savior, set my soul free.

Give us your word and teach us to pray.

I want to praise and serve You always.

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob look down,  
have mercy upon us.

Oh Christ have mercy.

*Christe eleison.*

Oh Christ have mercy on me.

Send us Your comfort, grant us Your peace.

You are the way, the truth, and the light.

I love you more each day and each night.

Jesus the Rock of salvation, the Light of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

## **II. Gloria**

(Glory to God in the Highest)

Glory to God in the highest, peace to all men of good will.

We Praise Thee, we bless Thee, we adore Thee, we glorify Thee

We give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory.

Lord God, King of heav'n Father Almighty One.

Glory be to Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, the Father's only Son.

Thou who takes away all the sins of the world have mercy on us.

Thou who takes away all the sins of the world receive our prayers.

Thou who sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty in heav'n have  
mercy on us.

Only Thou art holy, only Thou art the Lord.

Only Thou are holy, only thou are most high.

We come to praise Your name today, we want to serve You in ev'ry way.

Let the loud hosannas ring, shouting the praises to God our King.

In the name of the Father, in the name of the Son, in the name of the Holy  
Ghost.

The Blessed Three in One. Oh, Amen.

## **III. Credo**

(I Believe In God)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord.

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost.

Born of the Virgin Mary, suffer'd under Pontius Pilate,  
crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day, He arose.

He ascended to heaven, from death He was set free.

Now He sits at the right hand and He's waitin' for you and me.  
He will judge all the world.  
He will judge you and me.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit and the Holy catholic church.  
I believe Lord in one baptism for the remission of sin and rebirth.  
I believe in the resurrection and the communion of saints in this world.  
I believe when my life is over, I'm going home just to live with my God.  
I believe in God and in the Holy Ghost, I believe, I believe in God.

#### **IV. *Acclamation***

(Hallelujah Praise The Lord)

Hallelujah.  
Let us praise the Lord.  
Praise Him with stringed instruments.  
Praise Him with dance.  
Praise Him on the psalt'ry and harp.  
Everything that has breath ought to praise Him.

#### **V. *Sanctus***

(Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts)

Holy, holy Lord God of hosts.  
Hosanna be to Thee in the highest.  
Who gave me victory.  
There was a man sittin' by the roadside; he was blind he could not see.  
Then the Master of the earth and skies; touch'd his eyes and he looked  
around saying  
Holy, holy Lord God of hosts.  
Hosanna be to Thee in the highest.  
Who gave me victory.

Another man lay by a poolside; thirty eight years with his infirmity.  
Then the Lord troubled the water; the man arose and he jump'd for joy saying  
Holy, holy Lord God of hosts.  
Hosanna be to Thee in the highest.  
Who gave me victory.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, we will always sing,  
always sing Thy praise, sing Thy praise.  
Hosanna in the highest. Sing hosanna in the highest.

Like the blind man and the lame man, I was lost, living in sin.  
Then I opened up my heart one day, I let the Savior in. Now I shout saying  
Holy, holy Lord Jesus. Holy!

## **VI. *Agnus Dei***

(Lamb Of God)

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.

For You came to die for me, suffered, bled,  
and died, died on Calvary.

In your word You showed us how, we are trying Lord,  
hear our pray'r right now.

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,  
grant us Thy peace. Amen.



## **Gospel Choir**

Oral Moses, director

### **SOPRANOS**

Carla Bates  
Lauryn Davis  
Brittany Griffith  
Rosie-Lauren Hind  
Destiny Jackson  
Brianna Lee  
Maiah Morris  
Briana Pope-Pettis  
Jessica Pugh  
Maia Simmons  
Jennell Smith  
Varrion Weldon  
Emily Well  
Dee Dee West  
Naomi Williams

### **ALTOS**

Karen Bohannon  
Precious Brown  
Jara B. Childs  
Queenester V.  
Covington  
Anne Doriscar  
Melinah Felix  
Ashley Hamilton  
Jourdan Hunter  
Skylar Jackson  
Keisha Jacobs  
Kayla Jordan  
Azhane' Kennedy  
Amy Ouellet  
Treasure Pettis

### **ALTOS cont.**

Nasia Shearod  
Danice Smith  
Destin Thomas  
Tamera Tillman

### **TENORS**

Marcel Benoit, III  
Matthew Boatwright  
Joshua Leslie  
Anthony Morris  
Julian Nole  
Jason Raphaël  
Phillip J. Staples  
Travis St. Dic

## **Chorale**

Leslie J. Blackwell, director

### **SOPRANO**

Tori Anderson  
Daneel Bennett  
Grace Breazeale  
Rebecca Chesser  
Madison Coffey  
Laurn Davis  
Xandy Edwards  
Lizzy Godwin  
Brittany Griffith  
Lily Li-Man Ko  
Sierra Manson  
Kayla Marks  
Lindsay Peterson  
Tatyana Popovych  
Elena Prestwood  
Marielle Reed  
Elizabeth Shaver  
Sarah Shiver  
Hannah Smith

### **SOPRANO cont.**

Mae Thornton  
Sahaana Venkat  
Naomi Williams

### **ALTO**

Allison Chipman  
Bekah Clegg  
Lauren Faulkner  
Noelia Franceschi  
Joey Jacques  
Deanna Johnson  
Lulu Pearce  
Elizabeth Reeves  
Riley Schatz  
Abby Snyder  
Sarah Stevens  
Emily Thomas  
Graciela Vera  
Kelsey Woods  
Kahri Yeager

### **TENOR**

Matthew Boatwright  
Neil Buelow  
Gregor Haas  
Dennis Korwek  
Chase Law

### **BASS**

Will Cathey  
Ben Champion  
Miles Clayton  
Dean Emert  
Blake Emmons  
Roger Ibrahim  
Colin McGarr  
Dylan Peltenon  
Jimmy Roberts  
Jakari Rush  
Phillip Staples

## **Men's Ensemble**

Leslie J. Blackwell, director

### **TENOR 1**

Chase Law  
Anthony Morris  
Jeremiah Robinson  
Travis St.Dic  
Caleb Stack  
Alex Turner  
Bradley Weaver

### **TENOR 2**

Camden Anich  
Alexander Arnold  
Noah Callahan  
Riley Carson  
Connor Finton

### **TENOR 2 cont.**

Gregor Haas  
Taylor Hall  
Joss Stark  
Michael Stewart

### **BARITONE**

Stephen Bland  
Alex Burcar  
Jacob Michael  
Patrick Chapman  
Kristopher Davis  
Lucas Gray  
Dalton Hancock  
Connor Lawson

### **BARITONE cont.**

Kevin Loggins  
Cody O' Shea  
Jeremy Valore

### **BASS**

Marcel Benoit, III  
Nicholas Carlton  
Jacob Chalk-Hildrith  
Kenan Mitchell  
Jimmy Roberts  
Jonathan Swann  
Logan Thomas  
Matthew Welsh



## Chamber Singers

Leslie J. Blackwell, director

### SOPRANOS

Emma Bryant  
Mary Allison Hamby  
Emily Hering  
Ebony Lockwood  
Claire Pappas  
Callaway Powlus  
Nasia Shearod  
Hallie Skelton  
Jennell Smith

### ALTOS

Emily Bateman  
Ziara Greene  
Kristin Houston  
Ericka Palmer

### ALTOS cont.

Regan Romuno  
Abigail Snyder  
Macy Swanson  
Tessa Walker  
Deondria West

### TENORS

Taylor Hall  
Chase Law  
Anthony Morris  
Jason Raphaël  
Jeremiah Robinson  
Caleb Stack  
Michael Stewart

### BASS

Marcel Benoit, III  
Nicholas Carlton  
Ryan Cox  
Lucas Gray  
Kevin Loggins  
Cody O'Shea  
Matthew Welsh

## biographies

ORAL MOSES, *Professor Emeritus of Voice*

**O**ral Moses, bass-baritone, performs regularly throughout the United States and Europe singing oratorio and recitals with special emphasis on a wide variety of Negro Spirituals and Art Song repertoire by African-American composers.



He has had numerous successes in oratorio and opera performing major roles in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Regina*, *La Boheme*, *Albert Herring*, *Tremonisha*, *Rigoletto*, and *Die Zauberflöte* among many others. Symphonic engagements have included works with the Nashville Symphony, the Jackson Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Lansing Symphony, Tacoma Symphony and the Atlanta Symphony.

Dr. Moses has recorded several CDs of art songs and spirituals by African-American composers among which is his CD entitled, *Oral Moses sings...songs of America*. His CD, *Extreme*

*Spirituals*, is a collaboration with the controversial eclectic rock/classical band Birdsongs of the Mesozoic on Cuneiform label. In 2001, Albany Records released a collection of spirituals sung a capella entitled *Spirituals in Zion*, which he recorded in the historic Zion Baptist Church built by enslaved African Americans in 1861. As a solo recording artist for Albany Records, his premiere CD, *Deep River: Songs and Spirituals of Harry T. Burleigh*, is featured in the PBS film documentary *Antonin Dvorak in America*. His second CD, *Amen! African-American Composers of the Twentieth Century*, continues to be a best seller on the Albany Record label. He has collaborated with gospel artist Babbie Mason on the CD/video project *Treasured Memories: A Celebration Of Our Gospel Music Heritage*, documenting the rich legacy of Gospel music. A second CD collaboration entitled, *Third Day Offerings: A Worship Album*, allowed him to record with the contemporary Christian rock group Third Day and earned him his first gold record. His most recent contribution to the work of preserving the Negro Spiritual is the website: [www.thenegrospiritualinc.com](http://www.thenegrospiritualinc.com).

LESLIE J. BLACKWELL, *Director of Choral Activities,  
Professor of Music and Music Education*

**L**eslie J. Blackwell is the Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music and Music Education at Kennesaw State University where she has directed choral activities since 1998. Dr. Blackwell's duties include conducting the KSU Men's Ensemble, KSU Chorale and KSU Chamber



Singers, as well as teaching advanced choral conducting and literature. A native of Georgia, Blackwell received the Associate of Arts degree from Gordon Junior College (1982), the Bachelor of Music in Music Education from West Georgia College (1984), the Master of Music from Georgia State University (1991), and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Kentucky (2002).

Choirs under Dr. Blackwell's direction have performed at National, Regional, and State conferences of the American Choral Directors Association, as well as numerous Georgia Music Educators Association State Conventions.

In 2010, Dr. Blackwell presented *Songs of South America* for the American Choral Directors Association with the KSU Chamber Singers, featuring music of South America based upon her choral research and work in Argentina. In October 2013, the KSU Chamber Singers were selected to perform at the National Collegiate Choral Organization 5th National Conference.

Recognized for her work with men's voices, Dr. Blackwell served six seasons as the Artistic Director of the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus, established the annual KSU Male Chorus Day at Kennesaw State University, bringing upwards of 200 high school male students to campus, conducted the 2013 Georgia All State Men's Chorus, 2016 Alabama All State Men's Chorus, and 2017 Tennessee All State Men's Chorus. Under Dr. Blackwell's direction the KSU Men's Ensemble, a non-auditioned ensemble, has achieved prestigious accomplishments on a State, Regional, and National stage.

Influential musicians with whom Dr. Blackwell has worked are Robert Shaw, Ann Howard-Jones, Yoel Levi, Norma Raybon, John Haberlen, David Maslanka, Ola Gjeilo, Ethan Sperry, Brian Schmidt and Jefferson Johnson. In addition to her commitments at Kennesaw State University, Dr. Blackwell is active as a clinician and adjudicator and holds memberships in MENC, GMEA and ACDA. She also serves as the Repertoire and Standards Chair for Men's Choirs, Georgia ACDA. Currently, Dr. Blackwell is the Artistic Director and Founding Director of the Kennesaw State University Community & Alumni Choir.

SHERRI N. BARRETT, *Accompanist*

**S**herri N. Barrett received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Michigan and her Master's Degree in Piano Performance from the University of Tennessee. She studied with Eugene Mancini from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Arthur Rivotuso from the Juilliard School and Paris Conservatory. Ms. Barrett has recorded two solo piano CD's and has been an active soloist, accompanist and adjudicator in the Atlanta area for over 25 years. She has performed in the United States and Europe as soloist, in chamber ensembles and accompanist for various choral groups. She maintains a teaching studio out of which several students have won international piano competitions. She is presently serving as pianist for two Atlanta area churches, and under the baton of Dr. Leslie J. Blackwell, the Kennesaw State University Chamber Singers, Men's Ensemble, and KSU Community and Alumni Choir. Ms. Barrett is a member of the National Music Teachers Association and the International Music Fraternity Delta Omicron.

# about the school of music



Welcome to the Bailey Performance Center. We are thrilled that you are here!

The School of Music at Kennesaw State University is an exciting place to live, work and learn. Housed in the College of the Arts, the School is infused with masterfully skilled and dedicated performing teachers who care deeply about their profession, our programs, our community, and every student involved in music and the arts. This Performance Center is the jewel in our crown! We are so excited about the musical and

artistic events that happen here, and we are excited that you are here with us to enjoy them! The School of Music is busy preparing our students to be productive artists. We want them to be accomplished and creative leaders of the arts world of tomorrow, professionals who are diversely trained and well-practiced. Diverse in their backgrounds, our students hail from many of the leading musical arts and honors organizations from across the Southeast, and as a School of Music, we are dedicated to the purpose of furthering the arts and cultural offerings to our region and beyond.


Please take a look through our program book and notice those who advertise with us. They support us financially and help make this performance possible. I know that they will appreciate your patronage and support! Also, please note our *Name a Seat Campaign* listed within this program book. In preparation of our tenth anniversary, we have established a goal of naming 100 seats. Perhaps there is someone you would like to see honored in this way!


I look forward to a long and rewarding relationship with you. With your continued support of music and the arts, there is nothing that we cannot accomplish together!





Stephen W. Plate, DMA  
Director, KSU School of Music

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